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Letter dated 10 January 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 30 November 2004 (see annex). I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. The present report covers the period from 1 to 30 November 2004.

2. As at 30 November 2004, the total number of troops in theatre was 17,685, including 3,044 troops from non-NATO countries.

3. There is no change in the status of partner/non-NATO nation contributions.

Security

4. The general situation in Kosovo, though apparently calm, remains fragile and tense and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future.

5. The traditional autumn decline in ethnically motivated incidents is taking place, with a decrease in such incidents nearing 50 per cent since last month (11 reported incidents in October, 6 in November).

6. The threat against KFOR remained relatively low throughout November.

7. In terms of organized crime, a total of 22 incidents were reported in relation to drug-trafficking, illegal weapons finds and smuggling operations during November. This represents a decrease of 10 per cent from October. There was a slight increase in counterfeit currency cases and a slight decrease in drug-related crime. The level of smuggling incidents and illegal weapons finds during the reporting month was the same as in October.

8. As reported last month, KFOR still continues operations to secure the theatre, avoid ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites. KFOR also remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The NATO force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter a resurgence of violence.

Compliance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

9. No breaches of the Military Technical Agreement were reported during November 2004.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The current composition of KPC is 3,028 active members, including 157 members of minorities, of which 44 are Serbs. The reserve personnel establishment list includes 1,809 members, of which 17 are from ethnic minorities. The percentage of minority representation increased from 4.26 per cent in October to 5.14 per cent in November 2004.

11. During September 2004, the multinational brigades carried out 39 roll calls. The percentage of personnel absent without permission increased from 0.45 per cent in October to 5.53 per cent in November 2004. This increase is currently being investigated.

12. The new directive on the authorization of KPC field exercises, as drafted by the KFOR headquarters inspectorate of KPC, was agreed in November. However its implementation at the level of KPC is yet to be completed.

13. On 28 November, Albanian Flag Day was observed, with the main celebration of this event occurring in Skenderaj, where 641 uniformed KPC members took part. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

14. Overall, the situation remained calm but tense despite fears that Albanian Flag Day might lead to unrest. As winter sets in, the Kosovar population is turning its attention to getting adequate supplies of power and heating at a time when shortages are likely to occur. KFOR continues to monitor the security situation.